



CM Pool Budget Amendment #1

Co-Sponsors: Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza

Staffing for Aerial Apparatus @ Moore's Crossing EMS/Fire Station

SD23: Safety

Filling the staffing gap @ Moore's Crossing Station:

In FY20, Council approved an additional aerial ladder for the new Moore's Crossing EMS/Fire Station, which was scheduled to be occupied in July. AFD deficit issues that were discovered earlier in the FY20 budget cycle resulted in a delay of this staffing until FY21. However, staffing for Moore's Crossing aerial ladder was not included in the FY21 proposed budget. This budget adjustment would address the staffing gap and provide maintenance funds for the aerial ladder.

Table 1. Funding for 16 Additional Aerial Staff¹

Aerial Staff	FY21 Funding
Salary Costs	\$1,673,355
Maintenance Costs	\$123,356
Total	\$1,796,711

Source: Austin Fire Association

Austin Fire Department (AFD) aerial apparatus and engine companies are the two primary tactical assets deployed to an emergency scene to mitigate threats to life and property. For an emergency response to achieve a positive outcome, an adequate number of aerials and engines need to assemble rapidly to achieve an effective firefighting force, as defined in [NFPA 1710³](#) and AFD policy.

Aerial Staffing for Community Safety

- This May, the Public Safety Commission submitted budget recommendations to Council, including requesting "that the Austin City Council approve the Austin Fire Department budget **including the additional FTEs for placing an additional aerial into service.**"⁴
- AFD currently staffs the same number of aerial ladders it had back in 1995. At that time, AFD had 31 engines, it now has 45 engines.

Table 2. Engine to Ladder Ratios²

Texas Cities	Total Aerials	Total Engines	Engine/Aerial Ratio
Austin (current)	13	45	3.46
San Antonio	21	54	2.57
Houston	37	92	2.49
Dallas	23	57	2.48
El Paso	13	31	2.38
Fort Worth	17	38	2.24

Source: Austin Fire Association

- When compared to national standards, aerial ladder response times to fire emergencies demonstrate that more aerial ladder apparatus are needed.⁵
- Austin has the lowest fire engine to aerial ladder ratio among major Texas Cities. Refer to **Table 2** for more information.

¹ Austin Fire Department

² Austin Fire Association, [Aerial Ladder Response Data](#)

³ [National Fire Protection Association](#)

⁴ Public Safety Commission [20200518-002](#) & [20200518-005 – Part 2](#)

⁵ International Association of Fire Firefighters Local 975